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WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT
HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT AND
WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
and Public Health Inspectors
of the Districts

for the year

1957

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THE CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN, HATFIELD RURAL
AND WELWYN RURAL DISTRICTS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your Districts for the year 1957. While dealing mainly with the environmental health services for which the Councils as Local Sanitary Authorities are responsible, a brief account of the related personal health services of the area provided by the County Council has, as in previous years, been included.

The health of the Districts throughout the year has been well maintained, the standardised Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates in each District comparing favourably with the National rates.

Notifications of infectious diseases were low in each District with the exception of measles which was prevalent among pre-school and infant school children during the first half of the year. There were no outbreaks of Scarlet Fever or other streptococcal infections, the few cases notified being benign in character and responding rapidly to treatment at home with no reports of renal sequelae. Once again I am pleased to report complete freedom from diphtheria due to the continuing efforts of parents, doctors, nurses and teachers in maintaining the immunisation campaign. Records at the Divisional Health Office show that the number of children protected in their first year continues to rise so that a very satisfactory level of immunity from diphtheria has been achieved.

A small outbreak of non paralytic poliomyelitis affecting children of 7 - 8 years of age is mentioned in the Welwyn Garden City section of the report, a similar case occurring at the same time in the Welwyn District. Full poliomyelitis precautions were instituted promptly and although two of the children attended a private school in the Welwyn District no further cases occurred. All these children made a rapid and complete recovery following admission to hospital. Steady progress was maintained in the poliomyelitis vaccination scheme first introduced during the previous year. The number of children vaccinated at the special centre in each District was restricted by the limited supply of

British vaccine made available by the Ministry of Health, but further issues of imported vaccine of American and Canadian origin towards the end of the year enabled the programme to be accelerated. While there has often been a long period of waiting following registration of children for vaccination, parents have appreciated the opportunity of selecting the type of vaccine to be given to their children and the efforts taken to ensure that the children receive their injections in their order of registration depending upon the availability of the vaccine requested.

Asian Influenza type A first appeared in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield at the beginning of October, the numbers affected rising sharply to a maximum in the following fortnight and then subsiding as rapidly. The typical features of sudden onset with sharp rise in temperature and general prostration associated with headache and pains in the limbs were usually reported with pharyngitis, bronchitis or more rarely enteritis, as occasional features. The high attack rate which is usual in influenzal outbreaks of this nature was apparent, several members of a family often being affected within a short time, while office workers, shops staffs and industrial workers were heavily affected. The majority of patients made a good recovery after 4 - 5 days although residual debility was noticed in a proportion of adults. Limited supplies of vaccine for the protection of medical practitioners, nurses and midwives received from the Ministry of Health were distributed throughout the Districts.

In a circular letter upon the relationship between lung cancer and cigarette smoking the Ministry of Health has drawn attention to the Medical Research Council's report on this subject and states that the most reasonable interpretation of the very great increase in deaths from lung cancer in males during the past twenty five years is that a major part of it is caused by smoking tobacco particularly heavy cigarette smoking, and it was the Government's intention that this opinion should be brought effectively to public notice so that all may know the risks involved in smoking. Each Council has recommended support to schemes of health education, aimed particularly to bring these facts before pupils attending secondary schools, and their parents. Enquiry into the smoking habits of pupils attending a Grammar School and two large Secondary Modern Schools in the area has shown that 20% - 25% of the boys are already regular smokers before leaving school. While the majority of these are not heavy smokers, having 3 - 5 cigarettes a day, it is nevertheless unfortunate that they have already acquired the cigarette smoking habit so early in life, many to become heavy smokers as soon as they leave school. The enquiry showed that a high proportion of parents are quite indifferent to their sons smoking, although at this age the boys smoking habits are influenced considerably by the attitude of the father. Smoking did not appear to be a problem among the girls at these schools.

I am pleased to report freedom from outbreaks of food poisoning in the districts during the year, nor was sonne dysentery prevalent in Welwyn Garden City as in previous years. The Public Health Inspectors have devoted much of their time to the periodic inspection of food premises and the investigation of complaints, while medical practitioners have been of great assistance in promptly reporting cases of gastro enteritis to the departments for investigation. The new food shops recently opened in South Hatfield are of good design and layout, providing ideal working conditions for the staffs with good storage and display arrangements.

Interest in the welfare of the elderly continues to grow in each district, the new club premises in Welwyn Garden City, the meals for the elderly scheme in Hatfield, and the facilities in the Memorial Hall, North Mymms illustrating the progress made during the year. Great credit is due to the members of the Womens Voluntary Service, other voluntary helpers and the old folk themselves for these advances, and it is to be hoped that the various activities, particularly the chiropody service and the provision of meals for the housebound, will continue to expand to meet the great need for these services. The need for further residential accommodation for elderly persons in the area who require more help than can be provided through the home help service, relatives and friends, is now becoming more pressing with the rapid growth of the towns. The inauguration of a scheme for the boarding out of physically fit elderly persons with suitable families would probably prove a sound and welcome alternative to institutional care.

Much has been written recently on the emotional stresses and difficulties experienced by the parents of young families arriving in the New Towns from the London area and there is no doubt that then the first flush of enthusiasm for the change of home and environment is over, uncertainties and frustration often arise. Adjustment in the new community may be slow but is nevertheless sure and viewed over a period of years the majority of these initial problems are overcome as the true benefits of family life in the New Towns become apparent. The Health Visitors, social welfare workers, teachers and clergy have a vital role in assisting young parents over these initial difficulties, while the residents' associations, womens organisations and youth clubs play their part in establishing well integrated community life in the newly developed areas.

In conclusion, I must again express my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance given by the Clerks and other Officers of the respective District Councils, and especially the Public Health Inspectors who have helped me by carrying out much detailed work in addition to their routine duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1958.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and of the
Public Health Inspector for 1957.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

M. STOCKDALE, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

D. R. BURTON, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Rodent Operative:

E. J. THOMAS.

Clerks:

Mrs. E. R. GEORGE.

A. A. W. CALLABY.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SECTION

Section A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres ...	...	...	...	...	...	4,231
Population (mid-year 1957, as estimated by the Registrar General) ...	...	...	...	...	...	28,140
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1958 ...	...	...	...	...	...	9,221
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1958 ...	...	...	...	...	...	£457,410
Product of a penny rate 1957-58 ...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,855

Founded by Ebenezer Howard and a small band of enthusiastic visionaries of the Garden City movement in 1920, Welwyn Garden City to-day displays the worthy ideals of those early pioneers in practical town planning. A new town of limited size in a rural setting, conveniently arranged for residence and industry, endowed with the beauty of open spaces, gardens and woodland vistas. The well laid-out homes, fine schools and facilities for the widest range of social activities and interests, provide a healthful and convenient way of life for all ages and sections of the community at work and leisure. The post-war building programme of the Council and Development Corporation continue the early tradition while incorporating recent progress in design and construction. There are large factories engaged in the manufacture of foodstuffs, grinding wheels, radio sets, pharmaceutical products, heavy engineering, plastics and cigarettes, with many smaller firms engaged in a wide variety of manufacture.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

			Male	Female	Total
Deaths from all causes ...	...	...	94	74	168
Live Births: Legitimate ..	...	...	347	308	655
Illegitimate .	...	...	8	4	12
Still Births: Legitimate ...	...	...	8	2	10
Illegitimate .	...	...	---	---	---
Deaths of infants under one year:					
Legitimate ...	...	...	2	7	9
Illegitimate .	...	...	---	---	---

Infant Mortality

Nine infants under one year of age died during the year. On consideration of the circumstances in each case, six of these deaths may be classed as unavoidable due to congenital defects or prematurity.

Female	4 hours	Syncope following delivery
Male	5 hours	Prematurity
Female	5 hours	Prematurity
Female	5 hours	Prematurity
Male	9 hours	Prematurity
Female	13 hours	Cerebral haemorrhage
Female	16 hours	Prematurity
Male	2 days	Prematurity
Female	1 week	Broncho-pneumonia

Maternal Mortality

Once again it is gratifying to report that there were no maternal deaths during the year. This reflects the high standard of hospital and domiciliary Midwifery in the town.

Comparison of Annual Rates

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1953 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1957. Each compares favourably with the corresponding rate for the country.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1953	14.9	0.86	12.8	7.1	1.44	10.2	12.6
1954	18.3	0.86	15.7	5.4	1.44	7.8	9.8
1955	19.3	0.86	16.6	6.8	1.44	9.8	21.7
1956	24.2	0.80	19.4	7.0	1.76	12.3	18.96
1957	23.7	0.79	18.7	5.9	1.81	10.8	13.5
England and Wales 1957			16.1			11.5	23.0

Deaths

No major factors affected the mortality rate for the year, the slight fall in the general death rate being due to less deaths from heart and circulatory diseases. The deaths from road traffic and other accidents were more than twice the average number of deaths from this cause over the past five years.

The analysis of deaths from cancer shows that cancer of the lungs and respiratory tract again heads the list. The report of the Medical Research Council on the relationship between lung cancer and cigarette smoking indicates that a considerable proportion of these lung cancers are preventable.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Av. past 5 years</u>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-	1
Cancer, Malignant disease	17	15	32	31
Cerebral haemorrhage and Thrombosis	8	15	23	19
Heart Diseases	28	22	50	39
Other circulatory diseases	2	4	6	11
Pneumonia	4	3	7	5
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	8	1	9	11
Ulcer of stomach etc.	3	1	4	1
Road Traffic and Other accidents	12	2	14	5
Diabetes	1	-	1	1
Suicide	1	1	2	3
Congenital Malformation	1	1	2	1
Other defined causes	9	9	18	20
	<u>94</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>148</u>

Analysis of the deaths from cancer:-

Respiratory tract	10
Alimentary tract and liver	8
Breast and uterus	8
Others	6

Section B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The County Council is responsible for the administration of the personal health services in the town, embracing maternity and child welfare, school health service, health visiting, home nursing and the home help service. Reference should be made to the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer for 1957 for detailed information on the development of these services.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Health Centre, Cole Green Lane

Ante and Post Natal ...	Friday, 3-5 p.m.
Infant Welfare... ..	Monday, 2-4 p.m.; Tuesday, 2-4 p.m; Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.

Minor Ailments Daily, 9 a.m. (Doctor attends Monday,
9.30 a.m. - 12 noon)

Immunisation and Vaccination. Monday 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

Dental and Orthodontic. .. Daily a.m. and p.m.
(except Wednesday a.m.)

(A special Orthodontic session held
Monday p.m., monthly).

Ophthalmic... .. 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon Wednesday.

Speech Therapy Thursday 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Child Development Friday (by appointment).

Child Guidance Wednesday (by appointment).

Orthoptic Monday and Wednesday, 9.30 a.m. -
12.30 p.m., 2 - 4.30 p.m.

Lawrence Hall, Applecroft Road

Infant Welfare Wednesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
Thursday, 2 - 4 p.m. (Doctor's session)

Child Development Wednesday (by appointment).

Midwifery Services

The Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital at Peartree continues to maintain a high standard of midwifery in the town, the hospital being recognised as a Part II Training Centre for midwives. Specialist advice and treatment are readily available at the hospital for difficult or complicated maternity cases.

The priority scheme for hospital delivery is working satisfactorily, although with the continued growth of the town the limited accommodation at the maternity hospital barely meets the increased commitment for hospital confinements. Five domiciliary District Nurse/Midwives are now employed by the County Council for home confinements in Welwyn Garden City. The weekly ante natal and post natal session is held at the Health Centre on Friday afternoons by the midwives for the examination and supervision of the domiciliary midwifery cases. In addition to these facilities the Applecroft Nursing Home on the west side of the town is mainly engaged with maternity cases.

Nursing Services

At present five Health Visitors, three Home Nurses and five District Nurse/Midwives provide a comprehensive nursing service for the town. The Health Visitors undertake school health work in addition to their clinic duties and health visiting in the home. Valuable assistance is rendered at the clinics by teams of voluntary workers who keep the registers, weigh and measure the children, sell proprietary infant foods and vitamin preparations, and generally release the doctor and health visitor for more specialised duties.

Medical Loan Depot

There is a medical loan depot for each side of the town, staffed by members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, for the loan of many items of medical equipment needed for the nursing of sick or injured persons in the homes. Application for items of equipment should be made at the following times:-

Health Centre, Gooseacre ... Monday, Wednesday, Friday,
7 - 8 p.m.
Trevelyan House, Church Road. Monday to Friday 8 - 9 p.m.

School Health Service

The Medical inspection of children in maintained schools in the prescribed age groups, namely 5, 11 and 14 years, and in addition the 8 year-old group, was completed during the year. Reference should be made to the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer on the School Health Service, 1957, for detailed information.

Welfare Foods

National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice and Vitamin A and D tablets can be obtained at all Child Welfare Centres and also at the following places:-

Gooseacre Health Centre ... Monday, Wednesday, Friday,
9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and
2 - 5 p.m.
Tuesday 2 - 4 p.m.
W.V.S. Hut, The Campus ... Tuesday 2.30 - 4 p.m.

Immunisation and Vaccination

It is now agreed policy to press for primary vaccination against smallpox of all children under the age of two years, and at ages above this when the child has been, or is likely to be exposed to smallpox. In a healthy infant primary vaccination is best done at the age of three or four months.

The need for diphtheria immunisation of all infants is as great as ever although the complete absence of the disease may tend to lull parents into a false sense of security. It is gratifying to record, however, that parents still seem aware of their responsibilities in this matter and returns from medical practitioners and clinics show that the general level of acceptance is satisfactory.

Following improvement in proprietary vaccines for the prevention of whooping cough, immunisation against this disease is now available through family practitioners and clinics. While combined whooping cough and diphtheria protection has proved convenient, the Ministry of Health following close study of the merits of the various immunising preparations, recommend that the two sets of injections are best given concurrently.

Following the introduction of the Government scheme of anti poliomyelitis vaccination, registration of children from six months to fifteen years of age for vaccine were received throughout the year together with adults in certain priority groups prescribed by the Ministry, e.g. expectant mothers and certain classes of doctors, nurses and ambulance personnel liable to come into close contact with poliomyelitis in their duties. The numbers vaccinated throughout the year were restricted by the limited issues of British Vaccine. To meet the initial practical difficulties in producing British Vaccine in adequate quantity, increasing supplies of Canadian and American vaccine of Salk Type were issued towards the end of the year and early in 1958 so that all children registered will have been vaccinated by the end of June, 1958, except those children registered for British Vaccine only. No untoward reactions from these protective vaccinations have occurred.

Home Help Service

The demands on this service have remained steady throughout the year, approximately 50 households receiving domestic help each week.

The local organiser, Mrs. E.R. Dawson, The Health Centre, Cole Green Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Telephone: Welwyn Garden 2190. The Home Help Service is one of the ways in which the present heavy

burden on hospital accommodation can be relieved, and there is a close link between the service and the domiciliary midwifery and nursing services.

Mental Health Service

The service is administered from the Central Health Department for the county as a whole. The Duly Authorised Officer under the Mental Treatment Acts for this area is Mr. C.A.English, 3, Wellfield Road, Hatfield (Telephone: Hatfield 2239), who is also Divisional Welfare Officer. Several mentally defective children attend the Occupation Centres at St. Albans and Hertford.

Day Nursery, Woodhall Lane

A small unit taking 30 children for long or short term stay depending upon needs of the family. Application should be made directly to the Matron, Mrs. B.Squires (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 3692).

Priorities for admission:-

- (1) Children of Widows or Widowers.
- (2) Children of Unmarried Mothers.
- (3) Children of deserted Wives or Husbands.
- (4) Children of Parents in Prison.
- (5) Children of Parents suffering from chronic illness or disablement, i.e. mental illness, tuberculosis, etc.
- (6) Temporary Cases, e.g. Mother's illness or confinement.
- (7) Children recommended by Doctor or Health Visitor for temporary help, i.e. children from problem families, emotional difficulties and bad housing conditions.

Ambulance Service

Two ambulances and a sitting case car of the County Ambulance Brigade are attached to the Welwyn Garden City Station and, operating in conjunction with the Fire Brigade, maintain a 24-hour cover and deal with approximately 2,000 calls annually. Both vehicles are equipped with short-wave radio to conform with the County's Radio Control Scheme and can be mobilised by transmitter stations in St. Albans and Hertford.

Old People's Welfare

The major achievement of the year has been the success of the scheme to provide an improved centre for the Old Peoples Club adjacent to the Community Centre at Woodhall. The new premises already taking shape will undoubtedly provide a stimulus to the many activities of the club with the library and reading room,

meeting hall and facilities for light refreshments. The chiropody sessions recently inaugurated for the benefit of club members have served a real need and are now held weekly. Great credit is due to the members of the W.V.S. and the Neighbours Club who originated and sponsored the scheme with the active support of the Round Table, Inner Wheel and other voluntary organisations.

The churches, Alice Glyn Trust and other organisations render valuable service in visiting old folk in their homes, and in this sphere there is a close link with the work of the Health Visitors, Home Nurses and Home Helps. The meals on wheels service continues to provide hot meals twice weekly to some seventeen elderly persons in their homes.

Hospital Facilities

The hospital and specialist services for the town are administered by the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. In addition to the Cottage Hospital with 17 beds, and the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital with 30 beds, the town is served by the large hospitals in the surrounding towns, where full specialist and diagnostic facilities are readily available.

Cases of infectious disease in need of hospital treatment or isolation are transferred in the first place to St. Stephen's Ward of the St. Albans City Hospital. The Hertford Isolation Hospital and Spittlesea Hospital, Luton, are also available for these cases.

The site works of the proposed new General Hospital to meet the needs of Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield were commenced at Howlands in the early autumn and it is anticipated that the main building contract will be started in the summer of 1958 following final approval of the detailed drawings and specifications by the Ministry

At a Public Meeting at the Community Centre on Wednesday, 30th October, details of the proposed hospital were presented to the people of the Town by the Regional Hospital Board with the final drawings and elevations. The hospital will provide 350 beds for in-patients together with the full range of specialist and diagnostic departments, maternity unit, out-patient and casualty service. The meeting was well attended and many questions from the public - on technical and administrative aspects - were answered.

General Medical Services

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is the body responsible for providing the general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. The Clerk of the Council (Mr. A.E.Short) has his offices at 156-158 Fore Street, Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 3195).

Family Planning

There is an active branch of the Family Planning Association in Welwyn Garden City, holding clinics at the Health Centre, Cole Green Lane. Sessions are held on Mondays, 6.30-8 p.m., and Thursdays, 1.30 - 3 p.m., for advice on birth control, and on Fridays, 9.30 - 11.30 p.m., for advice on childlessness. The sub-fertility clinic on Friday is by appointment only and patients must be referred through their own private doctor. The Family Planning Association is a voluntary body and small charges are made to the patients to cover expenses. Enquiries are welcomed and should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. L.L.Bowmer, 14, Beehive Lane, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 2270).

Marriage Guidance

The report of the Royal Commission on Marriage and Divorce provided a stimulus to the Marriage Guidance movement, particularly by its emphasis on the value of education and preparation for marriage and the success achieved by efforts at conciliation in cases of breakdown of the marriage. The Mid Herts Guidance Council Hon. Secretary, Mrs. J.R.Carter, 59, Attimore Road, Welwyn Garden City, (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 4894) is actively extending its work both in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield, and the number of trained counsellors has been increased during the year to meet the increased demand for advice.

Mention should be made of the valuable service over many years given by the Revd. K. Parkinson who was one of the first Marriage Guidance Counsellors in the Town, but who has now had to withdraw from active counselling owing to ill health.

Mortuary

Modern mortuary premises are maintained by the Urban District Council, adjacent to the Council Offices. 65 bodies were received during the year, and 15 post mortem examinations were carried out at the order of the district coroner.

Laboratory

The laboratory at Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, undertakes the examination of milk and other specimens required by medical practitioners and the Public Health Department. Larger scale facilities on an epidemiological basis, and for the examination of ice cream samples are available at the Regional Public Health Laboratory, Luton. Supplies of diphtheria immunisation material, diphtheria anti-toxin and measles globulins are available to practitioners in the town on request, and the Health Department is also a centre to which practitioners may bring in specimens or materials requiring laboratory examination.

Section C - INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year:-

Scarlet Fever	19	Food Poisoning	4
Whooping Cough	96	Meningococcal Infection	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	Dysentery	178
Measles	494	Poliomyelitis	8
Pneumonia	10		

Measles

Notifications mainly relating to children in infant and pre-school age groups were high during the Spring.

Sonne Dysentery

A wave of mild dysentery spread in the town during February and March mainly among young children. Spread was largely in family groups no particular school being specially involved.

All cases were promptly notified by the medical practitioners, homes visited, specimens taken for laboratory diagnosis, and the necessary precautions instituted. When one member of a family was infected it was usual to find that other children in the family were already infected and occasionally adults as well although those infected often had no symptoms of abdominal upset. Thorough washing of the hands after using the toilet and before preparing meals is of special importance at such times in limiting the spread of the disease. Periodic disinfection of the lavatory seat, pull and door handle are also recommended but in a busy family group with several children the opportunities for cross infection are so ubiquitous that each member of the family is inevitably infected. Children are excluded from school until a negative result has been obtained from the laboratory following a course of treatment.

Although the home visiting and collecting of laboratory specimens entails a heavy burden of work on the Public Health Inspectors, the advice given in the homes, at schools, and to food handlers undoubtedly assists in limiting the spread of this troublesome infection.

Poliomyelitis

Six children aged from five to seven years developed non-paralytic poliomyelitis during June. The symptoms were markedly similar and although no paralysis developed in the series, strict poliomyelitis precautions were instituted in the homes and at a private school in an adjacent district attended by three of the affected children. All made a rapid and full recovery.

One adult contracted paralytic poliomyelitis early in May resulting in weakness of the muscles of the back and legs. Virus culture indicated that he probably contracted his infection while at work or travelling in the London area. Although the patient's wife and children were also infected, as shown by the recovery of poliomyelitis virus of the same type, they remained quite well. The patient has made good progress under orthopaedic supervision and physiotherapy.

Tuberculosis

A confidential register of notifications is kept by the Medical Officer of Health, the names being frequently checked with the records held by the Chest Physician and County Medical Officer. Of the 49 cases added to the register during the year, 33 were transfers into the town mainly from the London area, a figure which compares favourably with the number of corresponding transfers into neighbouring urban districts.

	Male		Female		
	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	Total
On register at 31st December, 1956	115	18	93	18	244
Removals from register during the					
year	19	-	7	-	26
Added to register during the year	28	2	16	3	49
Cases on the register at 31st					
December, 1957	124	20	102	21	267

The Chest Clinic at the St. Albans City Hospital undertakes the diagnosis and supervision of cases in the area, the Chest Physician attending on Monday mornings for the examination of patients from Welwyn Garden City. Following diagnosis a home visit is made by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor attached to the Chest Clinic and a report is sent to the Medical Officer of Health who is thus aware of the home circumstances of each case brought on to the register. In order to ensure full consideration of the special housing needs of tuberculous persons, each case is specially reviewed where necessary by the Housing Committee upon a detailed report from the Medical Officer of Health.

Accommodation at the St. Albans City Hospital and Clare Hall Sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis compares favourably with most areas so that the number of active cases remaining in their homes in a highly infective state in close contact with the other members of the family and young children, is kept to the minimum. In this there is close co-operation between the chest physicians, hospital almoners, Medical Officer of Health and the Housing Department.

B.C.G. Vaccination was again offered to all 13 year old boys and girls attending schools in the town and a good acceptance rate obtained. The object of vaccination of children at this age is to increase their resistance to tuberculosis when they leave school, and come into contact with a wider population in industry, the university or commerce. Arrangements for the B.C.G. vaccination of infants and children in close contact with known cases of tuberculosis in the home has, of course, been an established measure for several years.

Housing

The steady progress maintained by the Council in the provision of new homes is shown by the following figures given by the Housing Manager:-

As at 31st
December, 1957

(a) Number of houses owned by the Council	...	...	2,488
(b) Number of temporary bungalows	...	...	150
(c) Number of families housed during the year	...	...	167
(d) Number of applicants on the housing lists:			
Priority grades	...	...	263
Non-priority grades	...	...	1,490
(e) Number of applications received during the year..			371

The Council's Scheme No.17 in the Digswell area comprising 320 dwellings and 45 garages was completed during the year and work commenced on a further scheme to provide 86 dwellings and 35 garages in Hollybush Lane. The Development Corporation completed the building schemes at The Commons and Howicks Green on the East side of the Town and pushed ahead with the Digswell Lodge scheme A where houses were ready for occupation at the end of the year.

Section D - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

The Water Undertaking is owned and operated by the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council.

The supply is obtained from deep bore holes in the chalk formation in the valley of the River Mimram, where the Pumping Station is situated. The Pumping Station is now electrified.

Six electrically driven pumps raise the water from six bore-holes to reservoirs on the Sherrardswood ridge, which provide a storage capacity of 3,000,000 gallons for the town's supply.

From the same station the Council pump water in bulk to the towers and reservoirs of the Welwyn Rural District Council.

The public supply, subsequent to being raised from the bore-holes is submitted to no treatment other than chlorination and storage in the reservoirs.

During 1957 the quality of the public water supply has been entirely satisfactory. The supply is chlorinated at the Pumping Station.

Water samples are obtained at regular intervals and a total of twenty two samples were obtained during the year. Of these, twenty samples were examined bacteriologically and two chemically and were all found to be of the highest quality.

A new water source at Fulling Mill is being developed.

Details of Type of Supply

Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the population supplied from public mains at April 1st 1957, are as follows:-

	Dwelling-houses	Population (estimated)
(a) Direct to houses ...	8,480	27,630
(b) By means of stand-pipes	0	0

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The town is sewered on the separate system. Surface water is drained to the valleys of the Lea and Mimram Rivers which bound the district on the south and north respectively.

Foul water is gathered by tributary sewers to the main trunk sewer which traverses the town from south-west to north-east, and discharges into sewage disposal works on the north-east corner of the district.

Sewage from the southern part of the district is pumped to the gravity sewers.

The system of disposal consists of detritus tanks, screens, continuous-flow settlement tanks, dosing tanks and percolating filters fed through revolving sprinklers. The effluent discharges into the River Mimram first passing through three lagoons. The sludge is pumped on to adjacent land and ploughed in.

Work on the Mimram Valley sewer, which is a branch of the Middle Lea Regional Scheme, has now been completed and part of the foul sewage of the town is taken to Ryemeads sewage works by gravity. The town's sewage disposal works will be in operation until Ryemeads sewage works can take the whole of the foul sewage of the town in April, 1958.

Rivers and Streams

A portion of the River Mimram, half mile (approximately) runs through the northern portion of the district, and a portion of the Lea, half mile (approximately) runs through the southern portion of the district.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The closet accommodation is on the water carriage system with the exception of those cottages (rural in character) on the outskirts of the district, where the pail system is in operation, and where the occupants arrange to bury the contents in their gardens.

(a) Number of pail closets abolished; water closets installed and connected to a water carriage system during recent years 62

(b) Number of pail closets remaining at the end of 1957 7

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal. All premises have galvanised metal dustbins for the deposit of refuse. The provision of galvanised iron dustbins is enforced under Section 64 of the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council Act 1932. House refuse is collected weekly in covered motor vehicles by the Council's Refuse Collection Service.

Domestic refuse is tipped at a dump near Stanborough Lane and is disposed of by controlled tipping. Such rats as may gain access to the dump or its surroundings are destroyed by the Public Health Department.

(b) Street Cleansing. This is controlled by the Surveyor.

(c) Gully Cleansing. All gullies for which the Council are responsible are regularly emptied and flushed by Contract Gully Cleansing Ltd., who are employed by the Council under contract for this purpose.

(d) Dustbins. The Council's Refuse Collection Service notifies the Public Health Department of any defective dustbins they find. Eighty three new bins were provided during the year on owners being requested to do so. Details are as follows:-

Urban District Council	...	...	25
Development Corporation	...	...	19
Other Owners	...	...	39

5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

(a) Number and nature of Inspections made during the year:-

Inspections of Factories (with mechanical power)	...	112
" " Factories (without mechanical power)	...	5
" " Workplaces	...	16
" " Milk Depots	...	12
" " Licensed Premises	...	20
Surveys and visits re Infested Premises (rats and mice)	4,098	
Inspections of Shops	...	171
" re Insect Pests (excluding bed bugs)	...	160
" of Dwellings (not otherwise included)	...	157
" " Schools	...	28
Visits to Public Health Laboratories	...	126
Inspections of Dwelling-houses under H.A. 1936	...	112
Special Inspections or Visits made re:-		
Drainage	...	217
Infectious Diseases (including food poisoning)	...	908
Smoke observations	...	166
Water Supply	...	22
Dustbins	...	175
Accumulations of refuse	...	194
Council Property	...	60
Miscellaneous Visits	...	57

(b) 1. Number of Informal Notices served ... 99

(c) 1. Number of Informal Notices:-

91 were complied with and 8 were outstanding.

6. (a) SHOPS

There are ninety one shops in the district. One hundred and seventy one inspections of shops have been made.

Plans of new shops are examined by the Health Department before they are approved, and representations made to the proposers where it appears that either the plans do not conform with the Public Health Act, 1936, or that structural alterations would be necessary on the shop becoming occupied, because the shops did not comply with the Shops Act, 1950, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The following action, under the Public Health Act, 1936, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, or the Shops Act, 1950, was taken:-

	Defects Found	Defects remedied
Want of Cleanliness	17	14
Sanitary Defects	9	6
Other Nuisances or Defects	34	21

Twenty seven Informal Notices were served and sixteen complied with.

(b) OFFICES

All offices in the district are of modern construction and have a high standard of fitness. Separate sanitary conveniences are provided in all cases where both sexes are employed. The conditions found regarding ventilation, lighting and cleanliness are satisfactory. Basement rooms are not used for clerical employment. All buildings in the town with few exceptions are constructed without basements.

7. SMOKE ABATEMENT

Smoke observations made	...	...	...	167
Smoke nuisances	...	...	...	31

All the smoke nuisances except three arose from two factories. The emissions from these two factories caused considerable concern. From the 1st January, 1957, to the 18th March, 1957, almost daily observations were made of both premises. Details concerning these two factories are now given.

Lead Dross Smelting Process

Very considerable nuisance was caused by this process in the industrial district. Continual endeavours by the Inspector under the Alkali, etc., Works Regulations Act, 1906, in collaboration with the Council and the local Member of Parliament, culminated in a large automatic Fume Filtration Plant being provided to prevent smoke and fumes arising from this particular process escaping into the atmosphere. This plant commenced operation at the end of August 1957. Subsequent observations of the process concerned have not shown any nuisance from smoke, fumes or otherwise. It is considered that the nuisance from this process, which commenced in 1954, has been efficiently abated.

The possibility of nuisance arising from other processes carried out at the same factory, cannot be ignored and the department has this matter continually before it.

Factory Producing Vitreous Frits.

The nuisance arising from the processes carried on falls into two categories, viz:

1. The emission of dust from the raw materials used, and
2. The emission of a fume haze into the atmosphere arising from the heating of raw materials to a high temperature.

The Area Alkali Inspector acts as technical adviser to the

Council. The fumes emitted are not black and are not prejudicial to health but, by intermittent blanketing down in the vicinity of the factory, cause a nuisance.

The legal position is complex although it appears that the responsibility for requiring the abatement of the dust emission and the fume haze rests with the Council.

Continuous representations have been made to the firm but progress has been slow due to difficult technical considerations and the fact that an extension to more than double the existing factory is proposed. At the year's end an order for a pilot Dust Collection Plant had been placed and a report concerning the raising of the height of a chimney to 60 feet - as an interim measure - was being considered by the Directors.

It appears that the atmosphere of Welwyn Garden City is comparatively unpolluted. This may be attributed to the high consumption of electricity. Practically every house is wired for electricity, and domestic consumption in the town is believed to be proportionately as high as anywhere in the country. Factories are wired for electricity, which in all instances provides the motive power. Steam boilers or furnaces are used for heating or trade processes only.

8. SWIMMING POOL

(1) The Lea Valley Open Air Swimming Pool is administered by the Council.

The continuous systems of chlorination and filtration, have continued to prove their worth. In spite of heavy bathing loads the pool water was found to be clear and bright and of satisfactory cleanliness.

Frequent tests are made with the Lovibond Comparator at the Pool to ascertain if the amount of free chlorine present is adequate; this test gives an immediate result showing the amount of chlorine present in parts per million.

(2) During the year four samples of water were obtained from the pool and were submitted for bacteriological examination. The Laboratory reports indicated that the four samples were of the highest standard of bacterial purity and did, in fact, attain the bacteriological standard of a pure drinking water.

9. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

No houses were found to be infested during the year. This is only the second year in which freedom from this pest has been recorded in the past twenty two years.

Section E. - HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 65

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 157

(2) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be fit for human habitation 38

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 35

3. No action was taken under Statutory Powers during the year.

Section F. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Control of Food

(a) MILK

(i) General

There are six milk distributors registered, of whom only two occupy milk depots in the area. The major part of the milk sold is produced outside the district.

(ii) It is estimated that over ninety per cent of the milk sold in the Garden City has been pasteurised before being retailed.

(iii) The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) (No.3) Order, 1953, provides that all milk sold in the town must be Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested or Sterilised.

(iv) Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations

During the year twelve inspections were made at milk depots. Two infringements of the Milk and Dairies Regulations were found. Informal notification was made to the distributors concerned and complied with by them.

(v) Biological Examinations

The County Council obtains milk samples from Tuberculin Tested

and non-designated herds and has them examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus. No report of the presence of either of these organisms has been received during the year.

(vi) Milk Sampling

Samples of milk are regularly obtained at least once a month. The majority are taken on the public highway from distributors who are delivering milk to the public. This practice enables the cleanliness of milk as delivered to the public to be ascertained. One hundred and thirteen samples were obtained and delivered to Hill End Hospital for examination by the prescribed tests. The samples of the various designations obtained were as follows:-

Pasteurised ...	...	59	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	40
Tuberculin Tested	...	2	Sterilised ...	...
				12

Twenty four Methylene Blue tests were void or not completed, due to the legal provision, that, if at any time the atmosphere shade temperature at the laboratory in the immediate vicinity of the samples exceeds 65°F., the tests shall be void. Excluding these and counting only valid results, all the remaining samples passed the tests prescribed, with the exception of one sample of Pasteurised milk which failed to pass the Methylene Blue test and one sample of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) milk which failed to pass the Phosphatase test.

These excellent results show the care taken by producers, pasteurisers and distributors in handling the milk which was sampled. It is interesting to note that of the twenty four Methylene Blue tests which were either not completed or the results of which were void, analysis of the laboratory reports shows that the tests on seven samples were not completed and, of the remaining seventeen tests, thirteen samples passed the test and four samples failed to do so. In other words, in atmospheric shade temperature which the existing law considers too hot for the Methylene Blue test to be applied - of the samples for which results were known - 76.4% passed that test after being exposed to such adverse conditions.

(b) ICE CREAM

Routine sampling of ice cream for bacteriological examination has been carried out throughout the year. It was found that the five different makes of ice cream retailed within this Authority were on the whole satisfactory. The two results which were unsatisfactory, however, gave rise to some concern. Both the suppliers and the Local Authority in whose district the ice cream was manufactured were notified. Enquiries revealed that the probable cause of the unsatisfactory samples, which were from the same batch, was a breakdown in the freezing plant at the factory due to a cut in the water supply during a particularly warm period.

An assurance was given that every effort would be made to prevent a similar occurrence. Repeat samples proved satisfactory.

Seventy two samples were obtained from twenty nine different retailers.

<u>Type of Ice Cream</u>	<u>Provisional Grades</u>				<u>Total</u>
	1	2	3	4	
	<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u>		
Wrapped brickettes	23	2	1	1	27
Wrapped Choc Bars	6	-	-	-	6
Partly wrapped	14	2	-	-	16
Part of previously opened bulk supply	12	1	-	-	13
Part of previously opened wrapped bricks	4	-	-	-	4
Tubs	6	-	-	-	6
Total samples	65	5	1	1	72
Percentage results	90.28%	6.94%	1.39%	1.39%	

Fruit Lollies

Fourteen samples from six different manufacturers were submitted for bacteriological examination. In each case the report indicated that the degree of acidity was such that bacteriological growth would not occur and therefore the samples could be considered satisfactory.

Cream Lollies

Nine samples from four different manufacturers were submitted for bacteriological examination. The laboratory reports showed that no faecal coli were present. This indicates a continual improvement in the manufacture and handling of these lollies which in the past have caused considerable concern.

Fruit Delight

During the year it was found that one manufacturer was retailing a product described as "Fruit Delight". It was sold from wrapped blocks either in wafers or cones. Although somewhat similar in appearance to ice cream, bacteriological examination revealed that it was considerably more acid than ice cream. Due to the acidity, bacteriological growth would not be possible and therefore the sample was considered satisfactory.

(c) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS, EXCLUDING MILK AND ICE CREAM

There are no slaughterhouses in the district. Meat and Other foods are inspected at food premises during the course of routine inspections of the premises and also on the request of retailers if they are in any doubt as to the fitness of foodstuffs. Bacteriological sampling is also carried out from time to time on food likely to give rise to Food Poisoning. During the year samples were taken of imitation cream during the process of cake filling. The results showed that there was no contamination and that the necessary sterilisation of equipment and savoy bags was being carried out.

The amount of unsound food surrendered during the year showed a marked increase over 1956, 3,936 lbs as compared with 1,829 lbs. The reason for this increase was the establishment in the district of a large food warehouse supplying branches throughout the South of England, a high percentage of food condemned came from this warehouse. All food condemned is destroyed in order to prevent it being used for human consumption. Details of food condemned:

(i)	<u>Uncooked Food</u>				<u>lbs</u>
	Meat	...	...	...	285
	Fish	...	...	...	275
(ii)	<u>Food in cans</u>				
	Vegetables	...	...	...	493
	Meat	...	...	...	1282
	Fruit	...	...	...	561
	Milk	...	...	...	139
(iii)	<u>Miscellaneous Food</u>	...	...		901

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of food are carried out at:-

- (a) Hill End Laboratory, Hill End Hospital, St.Albans.
- (b) Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.
- (c) Public Analyst, 20, Eastcheap, London, E.C.3.
- (d) Public Health Laboratory, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton.

(d) ADULTERATION

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, regarding adulteration are administered by the County Council.

Twenty six samples of food in common use were taken during the year including six milk samples. The Analyst's report showed that all were genuine. The commodities sampled ranged from fish cakes to saccharin tablets.

(e) COMPLAINTS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC RE FOOD

During the year sixteen complaints were made to the department regarding food which had been purchased and found to be unfit or unwholesome. Four of these complaints were from outside this Authority concerning food manufactured within this district. In all but one case it was found that the complaints were justified. Every case was investigated in order to determine, where possible, the exact cause of the condition, and where the food was produced outside the district the appropriate Local Authority was notified and asked to co-operate in the investigations.

The manufacturers and retailers involved showed considerable concern and willingness to co-operate in order to determine the cause and to take the necessary steps to prevent a recurrence of the complaints. In view of this it was not necessary to take legal proceedings but warning letters were sent in each case.

(f) VISITS MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING FOOD

Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	56
Ice Cream and Iced Lolly Sampling	...			...	48
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods	...			...	85
Bacteriological Sampling (other than					
Milk and Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	4
Laboratory visits	...	...	...	...	25
			Total		<u>218</u>

2. INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

The number of food premises has increased during the year as the development of the town progresses. All plans for new premises are seen in order that they may comply with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. Every effort is made to discuss the layout at planning stage; unfortunately this is not always possible due to shopping centres being built which consist of unit shops which are not designed specifically for food traders.

Food manufacturing premises have increased. Several new manufacturers have established factories in the district and a number of existing factories have been expanding their premises to meet the need for greater production. Particular attention has been paid to food manufacturers during the year and regular inspections carried out. It has been found generally that the managements concerned have been most co-operative and are aware of the responsibilities involved in food manufacture. This is also apparent from the number seeking the advice of the department over matters of hygiene and clean food handling.

Routine inspection of food premises revealed that the majority now compare favourably with the standard laid down by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. Where premises were found to be below the standard, informal action was taken. This has proved successful in the majority of cases.

* <u>Trades</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Building Site Canteens ...	7	8
Industrial Canteens ...	35	24
School Canteens ...	16	32
Cafes and Restaurants ...	12	26
Licensed Premises ..	9	20
Food Manufacturers ...	11	78
Butchers ...	13	36
Fishmongers ...	4	14
Grocers ...	17	62
Greengrocers ...	10	30
Confectioners ...	9	11
Misc. Food Premises ...	10	5
	<u>153</u>	<u>346</u>

* Where more than one principal trade is carried on from one premise each trade is recorded separately.

Informal Notices served	80
Notices completed ...	55

3. REGISTRATION OF PREMISES UNDER SECTION 16 - FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

(a) Storage and Sale of Ice Cream

Number on register ...	23
Number registered during year	1

(b) Manufacture or preparation of Preserved Foods etc.

Number on register ...	13
Number registered during year	1

4. EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES - FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

Six applications were received during the year for exemption certificates in respect of certain requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, relating to the provision of hot water supplies and wash hand basins. The applications were for either building site canteens or kiosks where space and facilities were limited. The certificates of exemption were granted in each case.

5. MOBILE VEHICLES SELLING FOOD

It was found during 1957 that the number of mobile vehicles was on the increase in the district. Inspection of these vehicles proved difficult as a number of them only came into the district one or two days a week and as there is no registration required for these vehicles it was often found difficult to carry out re-inspections. Generally the vehicles complied with the requirements of the Regulations and were satisfactory for the purpose for which they were being used.

The main problem was the sale from vehicles mainly dealing with greengrocery, of open foods, particularly where no hand washing facilities were available. In these cases the trader was asked to either provide the necessary facilities or to sell only greengrocery and pre-packed foods. It was found on subsequent inspections that the traders were co-operating in this matter and consequently towards the end of the year the standard had greatly improved.

Details of Inspections Carried Out

<u>Type of Trade</u>	<u>Number Inspected</u>	<u>Number of Visits</u>	<u>Warning Notices sent</u>	<u>No. of Notices Completed</u>
Ice Cream	5	8	2	2
Grocery	3	5	-	-
Grocery & Greengrocery	9	15	4	3
Greengrocery	4	5	1	1
Meat	3	5	2	1
Fish and Chips	1	2	-	-
Mobile Canteen	1	6	2	2
Other Trades	1	1	-	-
Total	27	47	11	9

6. EDUCATION

Due to the increase in the number of food premises in the district with the corresponding rise in the number of food handlers, it was felt that there was a growing need for clean food education in one form or another. It is very difficult to organise a comprehensive scheme for this purpose but every effort has been made to advise individuals and managements on problems relating to clean food whenever the opportunity presented itself particularly during inspection of food preparation premises. In addition leaflets and posters have been distributed to factory canteens, school canteens, food manufacturers, cafes and restaurants.

At a Culinary Show and Exhibition organised by the Hertfordshire Caterers Federation which was held in the town, a "Clean Food" stand was organised in conjunction with Hill End Hospital Laboratory, St. Albans. As it was anticipated that a percentage of the visitors to the exhibition would be catering employees, it was felt that the emphasis should be on food handling. The ways in which food can become contaminated were depicted, together with the means of prevention.

The stand drew considerable attention from the visitors who appeared keenly interested in the subject, this fact being borne out by the questions asked and the number of explanatory leaflets distributed. It was felt that the exhibition provided an additional opportunity for putting over "Clean Food" to a cross section of food handlers and general public in the district.

Section G. - GENERAL, INCLUDING SUPERVISION OF FACTORIES AND RODENT CONTROL

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
FACTORIES with Mechanical Power	112	10	0
FACTORIES without Mechanical Power	5	0	0
OTHER PREMISES under the Act ..	37	8	0
Total	<u>154</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>0</u>

2. DEFECTS FOUND

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of defects</u>		<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>Number of Offences in respect of which pro- secutions were instituted</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>		(5)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
Sanitary conveniences(S.7):				
Insufficient	4	3	0	0
Unsuitable or defective	14	11	0	0
Not separate for sexes	1	1	0	0
Total	19	15	0	0

3. FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(a) The occupiers of two local factories distribute work to four out-workers in the town and to four out-workers in London. The former assemble or make up articles in their own homes.

In addition six local out-workers are employed by firms outside the district. The outwork is carried on in clean and satisfactory premises. No cause for complaint has arisen during the year.

(b) Factories - General Information

All factories in the town are of modern construction and have been built during the past thirty five years. Health conditions are generally satisfactory. Infringements are usually of a minor nature.

Plans for new factories or involving alteration of existing factories are submitted to the Public Health Department before they are approved.

The Council is empowered to reject the plans if they do not comply with sections 37, 43, or 59 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Where the plans submitted do not comply, amendments are informally negotiated with the proposers. If agreement is not secured within the statutory period or the statutory period is insufficient to allow negotiation, the plans are rejected. Where there is no legal authority to reject the plans, but the erection or alteration contained in the plans is likely to give rise to contraventions of the Factories Act, 1937, the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, this is pointed out to the proposers, and every endeavour made to secure prior compliance with these Acts.

4. RODENT CONTROL

(a) Administration.

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. A full-time Rodent Operative is employed.

(b) Rodent Destruction.

Rats, mice or rats and mice were found on 198 premises and 3,985 visits were made to destroy them.

In addition, 113 premises were surveyed to ascertain if rats or mice were present. Where, as a consequence of a visit, treatments for the destruction of rats or mice were immediately commenced, such visits are not included under premises surveyed, but under visits made.

Details of the 198 infestations dealt with were as follows:-

	<u>No. of Premises</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Rats only	86	2,002
Mice only	97	1,544
Rats and Mice	115	439

Details of the various types of premises found infested were as follows:-

	<u>Local Authority Property</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Business and Industrial Premises</u>
No. of premises infested by Rats	3	66	17
No. of premises infested by Mice	1	75	21
No. of premises infested by Rats and Mice	1	1	13
Total	<u>5</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>51</u>

Dwelling-houses are treated free, but a charge has to be made for rodent destruction at Business and Industrial Premises.

Annual contracts for the destruction of rats and mice are entered into by the Council in respect of Business and Industrial Premises. The charge made depends on the size of, and conditions at, the premises concerned. At 31st December, 1957, thirty two firms had thirty four current contracts, covering forty four premises, mainly factories. The income from these contracts then being at the rate of £273 a year.

(c) Sewers.

From 11th to the 14th March, 1957, test baiting was carried out in the Council's sewers, which convey foul water. Baits were laid in eighty nine manholes which were selected to give a representative test over the whole town. Subsequent inspection showed that none of the baits laid had been taken. This result indicates that the Council's sewers conveying foul water - of which there are about thirty miles - are free from rats.

5. INSECT PESTS

During the year seventy two complaints were received. A total of one hundred and fifty nine visits were made.

The table gives an analysis of the pests destroyed and the number of visits made to the infested premises.

<u>Pest</u>				<u>No. of premises affected</u>	<u>No. of visits made</u>
Beetles	...	...	...	5	7
Ants	...	...	...	2	6
Crickets	...	...	...	1	2
Moths	...	...	...	2	2
Wasps	...	...	...	41	98
Mosquitoes	...	...	...	4	17
Bed Bugs	...	...	...	-	-
Silver Fish	...	...	...	1	2
Earwigs	...	...	...	7	13
Red Mites	...	...	...	5	8
Flies	...	...	...	4	4
Total				<u>72</u>	<u>159</u>

HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and of the
Public Health Inspector for 1957.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

S. W. WRIGHT, M.R.S.H. (Left 31.3.57)

C. A. BAILEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (Commenced 1.7.57)

District Public Health Inspectors:

J. KEMP, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

M. HALL, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Assistant and Rodent Operative:

L. A. LAWRENCE.

Clerks:

Mrs. S. K. GREEN.

A. A. W. CALLABY.

HATFIELD SECTION

Section A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE YEAR

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	21,945
Population (mid-year 1957, estimated by the Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	...	33,410
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1958	...	...	...	...	...	10,168
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1958	...	...	...	...	...	£482,242
Product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£1,901

Social Conditions

The Hatfield Rural District is mainly an agricultural and residential area extending from the middle of Hertfordshire to the borders of Middlesex and the northern perimeter of the Outer Metropolitan area. The ancient town of Hatfield, the social and administrative centre of the area, already changed in character by the growth of the main works of the De Havilland Aircraft Company, is now undergoing further transformation by rapid residential and industrial development as a New Town.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of deaths from all causes	162	123	285
Number of live births: Legitimate	316	340	656
Illegitimate	13	12	25
Number of still births: Legitimate	7	5	12
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Number of deaths of infants under one year:			
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality

Eight infants under one year of age died during the year. On careful consideration of the circumstances in each case, five of these deaths may be classed as unavoidable, being due to prematurity or congenital defects.

Male	2 hours	Prematurity
Female	2 hours	Atelectasis of lungs
Male	3 hours	Prematurity
Male	8 hours	Prematurity
Female	1 day	Prematurity
Female	1 month	Congenital defect
Male	4 months	Circulatory failure
Male	10 months	Gastro enteritis

Maternal Mortality

Once again it is gratifying to report that there were no maternal deaths during the year. This reflects the high standard of hospital and domiciliary midwifery in the area.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1953	15.1	0.94	14.2	9.6	1.15	11.0	12.7
1954	16.3	0.94	15.3	8.2	1.15	9.4	13.3
1955	16.1	0.94	15.1	8.9	1.15	10.2	14.8
1956	17.46	0.90	15.7	9.6	1.09	10.4	14.8
1957	20.38	0.88	17.93	8.53	1.14	9.72	11.75
England and Wales 1957			16.1			11.5	23

Deaths

No major factor affected the mortality rate for the year. The slight fall in the general death rate compared with 1956 is due to fewer deaths from heart diseases and cancer. Deaths from road traffic and other accidents continues to rise.

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past 5 years</u>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	...	...	1	2	2	2
Cancer	...	...	25	18	43	43
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis	..	...	36	37	73	48

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past 5 years</u>
Heart Diseases	...	...	44	33	77	74
Other circulatory diseases			8	5	13	16
Pneumonia	...	...	5	7	12	8
Bronchitis and other respira-						
tory diseases	...	...	5	4	9	10
Diabetes	...	...	1	1	2	1
Nephritis	...	...	1	-	1	2
Ulcer of stomach etc.	...	...	6	4	10	3
Congenital malformation	...	...	5	3	8	1
Road Traffic and other						
accidents	...	...	12	2	14	7
Suicide	...	...	1	1	2	2
Other defined causes	...	...	12	6	18	30
			162	123	285	

Analysis of the deaths from cancer according to
site of origin:

Respiratory tract	...	...	8
Alimentary tract and liver			22
Breast and uterus	...	...	7
Unclassified	...	...	6

Section B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The personal health services for the District are administered by the County Council, the local health authority for these services under the National Health Service. The Medical Officer of Health of the District is also the Divisional Medical Officer for the County Health Services which facilitates full co-ordination of the various functions.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Civil Defence Hut, St.Albans Road	2 - 4 p.m., Friday (alternating) (Immunisation Session) 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. Friday (3rd each month).
Birchwood Avenue, Hatfield.	2 - 4 p.m. Friday (alternating)

Roe Hill House, Hatfield	9.30 - 11.30 a.m. 2 - 4 p.m. Thursday. (Immunisation Session) 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. Friday (2nd and 4th each month)
High View, Hatfield	9.30 - 11.30 a.m.) 2 - 4 p.m.) Wednesday
Brookmans Park Hotel Annexe	2 - 4 p.m. Monday (1st and 3rd)
The Cabin, Cuffley	2 - 4 p.m. Monday (1st and 3rd)
Village Hall, Essendon	2 - 4 p.m. Thursday (4th)
Iron Hall, Little Heath	2 - 4 p.m. Monday (2nd and 4th)
Memorial Hall, North Mymms	2 - 4 p.m. Thursday

KENNELWOOD, HATFIELD.

+ Ophthalmic	9.30 - 12 noon Wednesday
+ Orthoptic	2 - 4.30 p.m. Monday
+ Speech Therapy	9.30 - 12 noon) Friday 2 - 4.30 p.m.)
+ Minor Ailments	9.30 - 12 noon Tuesday (2nd and 4th)
+ Remedial Exercises	10 - 11 a.m. Thursday

+ By appointment only

Reference should be made to the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer for 1957 for detailed information on the development of these services.

WELFARE FOODS.

Welfare Foods, i.e. National Dried Milk, Vitamin A and D Tablets, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice are sold at the Child Welfare Centres and at the following times at 14, St. Albans Road, Hatfield on Friday, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

NURSING SERVICES.

Additional nurses and midwives were appointed early in the year to fill vacancies in the revised establishment for the town of Hatfield ensuring that the needs of the newly developed areas are fully met. There has been good co-operation between the nursing team and the medical practitioners with an all round improvement resulting from the better staffing position. The nursing services in other centres throughout the District are well maintained. Voluntary helpers continue to be of great assistance to the health visitors in charge of the welfare centres by attending to non-clinical duties such as the attendance records and the issuing of special infants foods and vitamin preparations.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

The routine periodic inspection of children in the three prescribed age groups, i.e. 5 years, 11 years and final year at secondary school, was carried out in all maintained schools with an additional group at eight years. Attendances at the special sessions held at Kennelwood Clinic viz. ophthalmic, orthoptic and speech training again showed an increase over the previous year. Regular dental sessions have been recommenced at the dental suite with a programme of dental inspections in schools throughout the District.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The number of infants and young children immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough during the year was very satisfactory, the injections being given either by the family doctor or at the child welfare clinics. A reinforcing injection against diphtheria is necessary when the child reaches the age of five years and is usually given shortly after entry to infants' school. Credit is due to the parents, teachers, doctors, nurses and voluntary workers supervising the health of children for ensuring protection from diphtheria and whooping cough at a cost which is but a small part of the cost of the hospital facilities previously necessary for the isolation and treatment of these diseases.

Over 80% of infants born in the District are protected against diphtheria during their first year of life while the number of children vaccinated against smallpox at the Child Welfare Clinics and by family practitioners continues to rise steadily.

Following the introduction of the Government Scheme of anti poliomyelitis vaccination, children within the prescribed age groups, i.e. between six months and fifteen years of age were vaccinated in Hatfield and other centres, the numbers being limited by the quantities of vaccine available. Towards the end of the year increasing supplies of vaccine of American and Canadian origin were received enabling the programme to be accelerated. Priority was extended to doctors and their families, ambulance and nursing staff who are particularly liable to come into contact with poliomyelitis, and expectant mothers.

Great care has been taken to ensure that all parts of the District receive equal priority in the selection of children for poliomyelitis vaccination and it is hoped that all children registered will have received their injections by the summer of 1958.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The demand upon the Home Help Service has increased a little during the year, the special needs of mothers in the peri-natal

period, elderly persons and long term illness receiving close attention. The local organiser, Mrs. M.L.Clayton has her office at Kennelwood (Telephone: Hatfield 2509).

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

One ambulance and one sitting case car are maintained at the Fire Station in Batterdale, Hatfield, which is manned during the daytime only by a crew of five fully trained ambulance men. Night cover for the district is provided by the larger station at Welwyn Garden City, and other adjoining stations.

The hospital car service supplements the work of the County Ambulance Service in carrying patients to and from hospitals and clinics. Requests should be directed to the Ambulance Station (Telephone: Hatfield 2222).

In view of the great increase in the demands upon the Ambulance Service over the past ten years every effort should be made by the public to restrict requests for ambulance transport to the minimum by using public transport or private cars when possible. Except in cases of emergency or accident, ambulance transport is provided on the recommendation of the doctor or hospital in medical charge of the patient.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is responsible for providing a general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. Mr. A.E.Short is the Clerk of the Council and has offices at 156-158, Fore Street, Hertford. (Telephone: Hertford 3195).

HEALTH EDUCATION.

The Council joined in the annual diphtheria immunisation campaign early in the year and gave support to schemes of publicity for the prevention of accidents in the home and bringing to the notice of the public the association between heavy cigarette smoking and lung cancer.

Section C - INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year:-

Whooping Cough	72	Dysentery	5
Measles	348	Paratyphoid Fever	2
Scarlet Fever	5	Food Poisoning	1
Polioomyelitis	2	Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Pneumonia	12		

Infectious Diseases

Measles was widespread throughout the District among children of pre-school and infant school age early in the year. The illness was generally mild in character with few complications.

During July a woman of middle age living at North Mymms contracted poliomyelitis with severe paralysis of the muscles of the back and legs. She was probably infected while travelling on the continent during the fortnight before symptoms developed. Admitted to the St. Albans City Hospital she made remarkable progress under a prolonged course of physiotherapy and graded movements, her improvement owing as much to her own indomitable courage, patience and determination to overcome her disabilities as to the excellent medical and nursing care she received for several months in hospital.

The other notification relates to a young boy who contracted the disease early in the year. Some weakness of the hand and leg developed but with physiotherapy and graded exercises he has made a full recovery with no residual handicap.

Full poliomyelitis precautions were instituted in these cases, and for a boy at Brookmans Park in June who was admitted to hospital with a virus meningitis of uncertain origin.

There were no outbreaks of scarlet fever, or other streptococcal infections, food poisoning or dysentery during the year. The odd cases notified were visited by the Public Health Inspectors to ensure that necessary precautions were taken in the home to limit the spread of infection.

Diphtheria.

Once more it is very gratifying to be able to report a year of complete absence from diphtheria throughout the District, thanks to the co-operation of parents and all concerned with the promotion of the immunisation campaign.

Tuberculosis.

The register of notifications has been maintained and is constantly reviewed by reference to the records held by the chest physicians and County Medical Officer of Health.

The tuberculosis statistics for the year are as follows:-

	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>N/pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>N/Pul.</u>	
On register at 31st December 1956	137	10	108	25	280
Removals from the register during the year	24	2	11	4	41
Added to the register during the year	33	4	16	2	55
On register at 31st December 1957	146	12	113	23	294

The number of new cases added to the register is about the same as during the previous year. Several of the fresh cases refer to persons with minimal signs where the Chest Physician considers that a course of chemotherapy would be beneficial in addition to continued supervision. The majority of persons with tuberculosis coming into the District are from the London area, where they have been under treatment and close observation for some time, and are thus non-infective quiescent cases. It is customary for the chest physicians to maintain supervision for five years after all signs of activity in the disease have subsided.

The Chest Clinic at St. Albans City Hospital has its own diagnostic X-ray plant to facilitate the ready supervision of patients and contacts referred to the clinic by medical practitioners. Following diagnosis home visiting is promptly arranged through the Health Visitors attached to the Clinic and a full report of the home circumstances is received by the Medical Officer of Health, who is able to assess the special needs of each case brought on the register. The necessity for special consideration of the housing needs of tuberculous persons is fully recognised by the Housing Committee of the Council, due priority being given to all such cases represented to the Committee by the Medical Officer of Health. There is close integration of the work of the Chest Clinic and the Tuberculosis Health Visitors with the other social services in the district, especially Home Nursing, Health Visiting and assistance under the Home Help Scheme.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the major industrial premises in Hatfield during December and public sessions were arranged at four centres. All sessions were well attended, a total of 11,031 persons being examined from industrial and commercial premises and 1,763 at the public sessions.

Section D - HOUSING

Steady progress was made during the year in the Council's housing schemes at South Hatfield and Puttocks Farm, North Mymms.

While the number of houses owned by the Council increased by 75 by the end of the year, the number of families in shared accommodation and caravans on the Council's housing list remained the same.

The following data has been provided by the Housing Manager:-

(a) Number of houses owned by the Council	2238
(b) Number of families housed during the year:	
Direct allocation	96
Exchanges & transfers	60
(c) Number of applicants on the housing list:	
Families in shared accommodation & caravans	220)
Families in separate accommodation & applications for transfer from Council tenants	347)
	<u>567</u>

Detailed inspection of properties in the Rights of Way area, St. Albans Road, Hatfield was made during the year with a view to slum clearance proposals.

A collection of unsightly caravans in poor condition on a site adjacent to the A.1 road, Hatfield, were cleared by agreement with the owner of the site.

Section E - CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

WATER

Public Supplies

The main water supply is provided almost entirely by the Barnet District Water Company. A few properties near the perimeter of the district, however, are catered for by undertakings in Welwyn Garden City U.D.C., Hertford R.D.C., St. Albans Waterworks Company and the Metropolitan Water Board.

During the year these supplies have proved satisfactory.

Private Supplies

As far as could be ascertained from a recent survey of the district, there were in the early part of the year 27 private supplies (wells, etc.) supplying 115 dwellings. This is a remarkably low number for a rural district of 22,000 acres and indicates the extent of the coverage by the public supplies mentioned.

During the latter part of the year, two wells, at Marshmoor and Cromer Hyde Farm, which had produced unsatisfactory results, were closed for domestic use and replaced by main supplies.

A total of eighty two samples were taken from private supplies and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Luton, for bacteriological examination. Unsatisfactory results were followed up, and in a number of cases, much improved quality was effected by the cleansing and structural repair of wells.

In one instance where samples of well water were consistently bad, the owner/occupier of the house was advised to clean out the well and to construct a suitable raised cover over same. This was readily done and the remains of 29 mice were recovered from the well bottom. All subsequent samples have proved to be of excellent quality!

Following are details of areas having independent supplies together with dwellings served and number of samples taken:-

<u>Area</u>	<u>No. of Sources</u>	<u>No. of Dwellings Supplied</u>	<u>No. of Tests Carried Out</u>
Astwick	1	2	1
Coopers Green	3	6/1/1	9
Cromer Hyde	2	3/1	8
Essendon	1	2	2
Marshmoor	2	3/1	7
Mill Green	2	2	3
Newgate Street	2	12/10	6
North Mymms	4	11/5/2/1	22
Roe Hyde	2	6/1	3
Stanborough	4	32/1/1/1	11
Symonds Hyde	1	6	3
Westfield	1	1	Nil
Woodside	2	2/1	4
Lemsford (Water cross beds).			2
Total	27	115	81
Mains Supply			1

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

The Council continued to operate sewage disposal plants at Mill Green, Essendon, Cuffley, Newgate Street and Northaw.

Difficulty was experienced in producing a satisfactory effluent at the Mill Green Works which receive a flow considerably in excess of their design capacity and the Council instructed their Consulting Engineers to report on various alternatives for the disposal of sewage from North Hatfield.

Following the connection to the Colne Valley Trunk Sewer of the Welham Green Works and the Warrengate Road Pumping Station as reported last year, the storm water overflow system at Gobions Wood was repaired so that it could operate at times of excess flow which occur during very wet weather.

Tenders were invited for Phases I and II of the long awaited Cuffley drainage scheme, which will link with the East Middlesex Trunk Sewer and do away with the existing disposal works and will also render some 55 acres of land capable of residential development.

In the New Town Designated Area, the high and low level foul sewer and Howe Dell Pumping Station, which drain the Eastern area, were completed, as were the Batterdale surface water sewer, and the French Horn Lane foul and surface water sewers. In the Southern area "on site" foul sewers were taken over by the Council as public sewers.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING:

The Council's cesspool emptier was fully employed throughout the year on night soil collection and cesspool emptying.

GULLY CLEANSING:

A Contractor was engaged to cleanse the road gullies in all private roads in the district, four times during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION:

A weekly collection of house refuse was continued throughout the district and special collections of bulky articles were made on request from householders. The frequent collection from hotels and canteens was continued and special arrangements made for the collection of refuse from Hatfield Market. There was an increased demand from local firms for the Council's trade refuse collection service, for which a charge is made.

Despite a considerable increase in the number of houses no new vehicles were needed, but approval was given to the purchase of an additional machine in the coming year.

The agreement was renewed with Messrs. Inns and Company for the disposal of refuse at the old gravel workings at Smallford and Holwell.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES:

Electric Lighting was installed at the public conveniences at Batterdale. Work was started on the new conveniences at the shopping centre at South Hatfield, and agreement was reached with the Development Corporation for the Council to provide public conveniences in the new Town Centre.

INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA:

The following is a summary of the visits made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year:-

Complaints received and investigated	186
Inspections for Housing Defects	450
In connection with Improvement Grants	200
Water Supply	368
Overcrowding	6
Moveable Dwellings ...	299
Infectious Diseases ..	29
Insect Infestations ..	40
Drainage Inspections	239
Drains Tested.. ...	29
Factories ...	60
Smoke Observations ...	87
Stables ...	4
Piggeries ...	22
Rats and Mice ...	17
Refuse Disposal and Collection	40
Offensive Accumulations	89
Refuse Accumulations	15
Refuse Tips ...	3
Re-visits to Promises under Notice	212
Interviews with Owners, Builders, etc.	99
Miscellaneous Visits	361
Swimming Pools ...	2
Schools ...	23
Market ...	62
Certificates of Disrepair	79
Laboratories ..	10
Music and Dancing Licences ..	12
Dirty Premises ...	3
Total	<u>3,046</u>

Inspections of Food Premises

Butchers Shops and Preserved Food	
Premises ...	137
Bakehouses ...	9
Bakers Shops ..	55
Cafes, Restaurants, Canteens, etc.	66
School Kitchens	44
Hotel Kitchens	3
Dairies, Milk Shops	33
Ice Cream Premises ...	52
Licensed Premises ...	54
Grocers, Other Food Shops ...	151

Inspections of Food Premises - continued

Greengrocers, Fruiterers	...	...	32
Fishmongers, Poulterers	...	...	20
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	3
Water Cress Beds	...	...	12
Scout Camp	...	...	1
School Camp	...	...	2

Inspection of Meat and Other Food at Food Premises.

At Slaughterhouses	...	...	279
At Food Premises	...	...	49
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	74

Total 1,076

Total number of visits made - 4,122

HOUSING

Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses Elsewhere

(a) Houses Demolished

1. In Clearance Areas	...	...	...	Nil
2. As result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 and Section 17, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	Nil

(b) Unfit Houses Closed ... Nil

(c) Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied.

1. After informal action by Local Authority	...	58
2. After formal notice under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	...	2

(d) Unfit houses in Temporary Use ... Nil

(e) Purchase of Houses by Agreement

Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders	...	6
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Note: The Housing Act, 1957 came into operation on the first day of September, replacing the old Act of 1936.

Considerable time was spent in making a survey of the Rights of Way area in Hatfield to form the basis of negotiation with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Development Corporation regarding the re-planning of the whole area.

Housing Act, 1957 - Improvement Grants.

During the year 75 applications were received for improvement grants to facilitate modernisation of older types of dwellings by way of providing bathrooms, internal sanitary conveniences, kitchen amenities and water heating etc. Visits were made to each dwelling initially to see if suitable for modernisation, and later for approval of the completed works, having regard to Housing and Public Health requirements.

The Rent Act, 1957.

This new legislation came into operation in July, and although primarily a Landlord and Tenant Act the Public Health Inspectors, towards the end of the year, were called upon to inspect a number of houses where tenants, having served the appropriate notices on the Landlords, had received no undertaking that items of disrepair would be carried out.

At the 31st December, as a result of inspections made, three Certificates of Disrepair had been issued and many more applications were being considered. In five cases the Landlords gave undertakings to carry out the work as specified in the tenants Form G notice.

Considerable time was taken up by the Inspectors in visiting the premises, checking the separate items listed by the tenants and preparing the material for inclusion in the Certificates of Disrepair prior to the issue of which a complicated time schedule had to evolve.

A strictly impartial approach was essential and it is interesting to note that in well over 90% of inspections made it was felt necessary to delete some items of disrepair specified in the tenants' applications.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 to 1954.

There is one Pasteurising plant in the district licensed by the Food and Drugs Authority, the Hertfordshire County Council.

The following licences were issued by the Rural District Council during the year:-

Dealer's licences authorising one of the special designation:

Pasteurised	3
Sterilised	3
Tuberculin Tested	4

Supplementary licences authorising the use of the special designation:

Pasteurised	6
Sterilised	6
Tuberculin Tested	6

Meat Inspection in Slaughterhouses.

Slaughtering of food animals was carried out at the two private slaughterhouses in the district. Killing normally takes place on two days a week at each of these premises, requiring four visits weekly.

Two localised infestations of *Cycticercus bovis* were found, each in an Ox heart. These two organs were rejected as unfit for human consumption and the remainder of the carcasses and offal was placed in cold storage at temperatures not exceeding 20°F for three weeks.

The low incidence of Tuberculosis and other diseases clearly reflects the general high quality of meat produced in the district.

100% of the meat killed at the local slaughterhouses was inspected by the Public Health Inspectors necessitating 279 visits.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-1954.

Two slaughtermen, resident in the district, were responsible for the killing and dressing of carcasses, together with a third, who is licensed by a neighbouring authority, and authorised to kill in this district.

Fatstock Guarantee Scheme - Deadweight Certification of Pigs.

The certification of pigs is undertaken by the Public Health Inspectors on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, at the Bell Bar slaughterhouse.

In this connection, 546 pigs were certified as qualifying for the deadweight subsidy payment. The Council has received the sum of £18.10.-d. for the services of the Inspectors in carrying out this work.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Cattle</u> (<u>excluding</u> <u>Cows</u>)	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u> <u>and</u> <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed and Inspected	Nil	277	34	1427	1999
<u>All Diseases except Tubercu-</u> <u>losis and Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	1	2	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	25	-	158	374
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tubercu- losis and Cysticerci	-	9.03	2.94	11.21	18.81
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	9	-	-	31
Percentage of the number in- spected with Tuberculosis	-	3.25	-	-	1.6
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	2	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	-	2	-	-	-
Generlised and totally con- demned	-	-	-	-	-
Amounts condemned as unfit for human consumption	-	469 lbs.	25 lbs	438 lbs	1503 lbs.

Meat and Other Foods.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for food in shops and other premises where food is prepared or sold:

English Ox Liver	2 lbs.	68 tins	Vegetables	97 lbs.
Ox Kidney	1 "	62 "	Fruit	106 "
Pork	22 "	5 "	Fruit Juice	33 "
Pigs Lungs	46 "	2 "	Soup	2 "
Dogfish	84 "	10 "	Milk	7 "
58 tins Meat	246 "	1 Packet	Flour	1 "
10 tins Fish	7 "	1 tin	Creamed Rice	1 "
		2 tins	Coffee	4 ozs.

Food Premises.

A steady programme of visits to the many categories of premises, under this heading was maintained throughout the year, special emphasis being given to those points covered by the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, e.g. personal cleanliness and methods of staff employed in Food Shops, shop and kitchen premises, handling, wrapping and protection of foodstuffs, washing facilities for personnel, and utensils and equipment, storing and transport of food, etc.

Detailed inspections were made of all School Kitchens in the area, coming under the jurisdiction of the Hertfordshire County Council. These covered a variation of both old and new, but the majority of the premises are modern in such a rapidly growing district as Hatfield. However, the older types have been well adopted and some of the newer premises are remarkably good in design and very well equipped for handling school meals.

Visits were also made to some of the larger hotel kitchens, one of which was completely rebuilt and re-equipped during the year.

The number of Food Premises in the District at present is as follows:-

Butchers	17	Grocers	43
Bakehouses	2	Ice Cream	26
Baker Shops	6	Greengrocers & Fruiterers	18
Cafes and Canteens	45	Fishmongers and Fish Friers	6

Hatfield Market - Food Stalls.

The open air market was officially opened towards the end of the year (26th October, 1957). It is of course under the jurisdiction of the Development Corporation, the Council however has obligations under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 in so far as the food stalls are concerned. Prior to the market opening therefore, a letter was sent to each intending occupier of a food stall informing him of the requirements of the regulations.

The site at present used is regarded as temporary and until the permanent site is available, arrangements will continue as at present with a portable washing unit, containing approximately 9 gallons of water heated by a calor gas burner, with liquid soap and towels.

No open market is easy to handle from a Public Health point of view, but visits are made by the Public Health Inspectors each Wednesday and Saturday. Many useful discussions have taken place with the food handlers, and it is pleasing to note that co-operation has been readily obtained from the staff holders and of course the Development Corporation.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Number of Factories on the Register	123
Number of Inspections made ...	60
Number of Written Notices ...	1

Defects Found

Ineffective Drainage of Floors ...	1
Unsuitable Sanitary Conveniences ..	1

FACTORIES.

The present number of Factories in the district is as follows:-

Factories with mechanical power (where Section 7 of Factories Act, 1937 is enforced by Local Authority) ...	121
---	-----

Factories without mechanical power (where Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 of Factories Act, 1937 are enforced by Local Authority ...	2
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PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

Inspection of sanitary accommodation in places of entertainment throughout the district was made during the year.

An annual visit and report is necessary in order to satisfy the Licensing Authority that the accommodation is adequate and well maintained, for this purpose.

The Licensing Authority concerned is the Hertfordshire County Council.

RODENT CONTROL:

During 1957 the incidence of rat infestations again diminished. This trend, now general to most parts of the country, is undoubtedly due to the efficacy of the modern poisons. The number of visits to properties infested with mice, however, was higher, both in dwelling houses and business premises.

Surveys of the sewers in the district were carried out in March and September to conform with the general policy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Where baiting indicated the presence of rodents in the sewers tested, poisons were laid in sufficient quantities to eliminate the estimated population.

The following table shows the work carried out by the Rodent Operative during the year:-

	<u>Authority</u>	<u>Type of Property</u>			<u>Total</u>
		<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Agri-cultural</u>	<u>Business</u>	
Properties found to be infested by RATS and treated ...	12	129	5	33	179
Number of treatments (including re-treatments) ...	24	144	8	40	216
Properties found to be infested by MICE and treated ...	2	31	-	18	51
Number of treatments (including re-treatments) ...	2	33	-	22	57
Number of visits recorded by the Rodent Operative ...	95	647	29	212	983

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION:

Articles of bedding, etc. 11

Premises treated:-

Fleas	3	Bluebottles	1
Bugs	4	Ants	13
Flies	2	Clover Mites	2
Cockroaches	3	Wasps Nests	34
Earwigs	9	Bees	1
		Hornets Nests	1

Council houses inspected on change of tenancy 69
Number treated for woodworm 27

WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical
Officer of Health and of the
Public Health Inspector for 1957.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor, Water Engineer and Public Health Inspector:
P. B. HAWLEY, M.A.P.H.I. (Commenced 1.4.57)

Clerk:

A. A. W. CALLABY.

WELWYN SECTION

Section A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE YEAR

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,232
Population (mid year 1957 as estimated by the Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,920
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1958	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,960
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1958	...	...	...	...	...	...	£72,284
Net product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£287

Social Conditions

The District is mainly agricultural in character, the old town of Welwyn, where the Great North Road crosses the Mimram, being the natural centre of the area. The two parishes of Ayot St. Lawrence and Ayot St. Peter remain sequestered and remote, although only 24 miles north of London, while parts of Digswell, Welwyn and Woolmer Green have developed as residential areas. The District comprises some of the best undulating wooded and agricultural country in Hertfordshire, and having escaped the urbanising influences of the inter-war years, retains its rural charm.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of deaths from all causes	33	28	61
Number of live births: Legitimate	55	46	101
Illegitimate	-	2	2
Number of still births: Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Number of deaths of infants under one year:			
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1953	14.9	0.88	13.1	11.0	0.97	10.6	24.6
1954	18.4	0.88	16.1	10.7	0.97	10.3	19.8
1955	13.4	0.88	11.8	8.9	0.97	8.6	Nil
1956	16.0	0.88	14.0	8.7	1.05	9.1	10.8
1957	17.4	0.87	15.14	10.3	1.11	11.43	9.71
England and Wales 1957	16.1			11.5			23

Deaths

The following table gives an analysis of the various causes of all deaths which have occurred - or are required to be treated as having occurred - in the district during the year. The increase in the total number of deaths compared with previous years is due to more deaths from cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Av. past 5 years</u>
Tuberculosis ...	-	-	-	-
Cancer ...	8	5	13	11
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis ...	12	3	15	7
Heart Diseases ...	6	8	14	16
Other circulatory diseases ...	1	1	2	4
Pneumonia ...	1	2	3	2

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Av. past 5 years</u>
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	-	2	2	2
Diabetes	-	-	-	-
Nephritis	2	2	4	-
Congenital Malformation	1	-	1	-
Road Traffic Accidents	1	1	2	2
Suicide	-	1	1	-
Other defined causes	1	3	4	7
	33	28	61	

Section B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The personal health services throughout the district are administered by the Hertfordshire County Council. The Medical Officer of Health of the District, who is also the Divisional Medical Officer, supervises these services.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

WELWYN (The Hill)

Infant Welfare	2 - 4 p.m. Friday
Ante and Post Natal	9 a.m. - 12 noon Thursday (1st only)
Dental	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 2 - 5 p.m. Tuesday (By appointment)

WOOLMER GREEN

The Mobile Infant Welfare Clinic attends at The Village Hall on the 1st and 3rd Thursday at 2 p.m.

NURSING SERVICES

Two nurses undertake the domiciliary nursing, midwifery and health visiting of the district with occasional assistance from neighbouring areas in the outlying parishes.

Miss I.A.Green, Home Nurse/Midwife, 1, The Crescent, WELWYN.

Miss L. Wray, Home Nurse/Midwife/Health Visitor, 10, Dolesbury Drive, WELWYN.

Miss Wray attends the Infant Welfare Centre on Friday afternoons and the mobile clinic at Woolmer Green to advise mothers on all questions of infant welfare.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

Children in the three prescribed age groups, were examined during the year. The school nurses regularly visit the schools to undertake the treatment of minor ailments, while the special diagnostic and treatment sessions at the Gooseacre Health Centre, Welwyn Garden City are available as required. Regular dental sessions are held on Tuesdays at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn Hill.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

A high level of primary immunisation against diphtheria is maintained by the continued interest of all concerned in the maintenance of the immunisation scheme. In addition to the children immunised by the family doctors, sessions are arranged at the schools, and at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn, for larger groups as necessary.

Whooping cough immunisation introduced during 1953 has been well received by parents, the injections being ideally commenced at the age of 4 months after the infant has been vaccinated. The Ministry of Health have now recommended that these injections are best given separately instead of combined with diphtheria immunisation.

Registration of children in the prescribed age groups, i.e. 6 months - 15 years of age for poliomyelitis vaccination were received throughout the area, together with adults in the priority groups prescribed by the Ministry, e.g. expectant mothers and certain classes of doctors, nurses and ambulance personnel. While the numbers vaccinated during the year were restricted by the limited issues of British vaccine, increasing supplies of Canadian and American vaccine of Salk type were issued towards the end of the year and early in 1958. Special sessions are held regularly at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn Hill, and it is probable that all children registered for the vaccine will have received their injections by the summer of 1958.

OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE.

The Welwyn Jubilee Old Folk's Club, under the Chairmanship of Mr. L.W.Adams, has continued to expand both in membership and activities throughout the year, there now being over 120 members and an average attendance of between 50 and 60 each week.

Great credit is due to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E.M.Elliott for arranging the various excursions which are enjoyed by all members of the club.

The Woolmer Green Old Persons Club, Hon. Secretary, Mr. A.W. Claydon, has continued to flourish in its new quarters adjacent

to the Village Hall. The club has a total membership of about 40, and meets regularly on Friday afternoons. Here again the success of the Club reflects credit upon the members of the Committee who give much time to arranging the many visits, special meetings and whist drives, in addition to assisting in the welfare of old people generally in Woolmer Green. The chiropody sessions held monthly continue to be of great benefit to club members.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The service has been well maintained throughout the year and the organiser is now able to build up a most efficient team of home helps for the Rural District.

The local organiser for the Welwyn Rural District is Mr. E.R. Dawson, Gooseacre Health Centre, Cole Green Lane, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 2190). While it has usually been possible to cover demands on the service, there is a need for women in each parish who would be willing to be registered for casual home help work in this essential service.

HOSPITALS.

The district is served by its own hospital, the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, which has forty beds for general medical and surgical cases. Within easy reach are the larger hospitals at Hitchin, Hertford and St. Albans, where full diagnostic and specialist facilities are available. The majority of maternity patients needing hospital confinement are admitted to the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital, but maternity beds are available also at Hitchin and St. Albans.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is responsible for providing a general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. Mr. A.E.Short is the Clerk of the Council, and has offices at 156-158 Fore Street, Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 3195).

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Hertfordshire County Council has control of the Ambulance Brigade, the staff and ambulances attached to the Welwyn Garden City Station covering all calls in the Welwyn Rural District, assisted by the Hospital Car Service.

WELFARE FOODS.

Welfare Foods, i.e. National Dried Milk, Vitamin A and D Tablets, Cod Liver Oil and Orange juice are sold at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn Hill on Thursdays from 2 - 5 p.m.

SECTION -C - INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received during the year.

Measles	158
Whooping Cough	4
Scarlet Fever	2
Poliomyelitis	2
Dysentery	1

Two children contracted poliomyelitis during June. The first, a boy aged eight years developed a meningo encephalitis of virus origin which responded rapidly to treatment in hospital with no muscle paralysis, while the second, a young girl aged $2\frac{1}{2}$ years developed weakness of the muscles of the right leg which fortunately has greatly improved with physiotherapy. As the first case coincided with a small outbreak of a similar illness among young children in Welwyn Garden City, it was considered advisable to apply full poliomyelitis precautions, although the diagnosis was not definitely established by hospital investigation.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Following a review of cases on the tuberculosis registers, the statistics for the year are as follows:-

	Male		Female		Total
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>N/Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>N/Pul.</u>	
On register at 31st December, 1956	17	1	20	3	41
Removals from the register during the year	1	-	3	-	4
Added to the register during the year	2	1	4	-	7
On register at 31st December, 1957	18	2	21	3	44

The Tuberculosis Clinics at Osterhills Hospital, St. Albans, and the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, undertake the treatment of cases in Welwyn and the southern part of the District, while cases from the Mardley Hill/Woolmer Green area attend Letchworth Clinic. Home visiting of all cases is maintained through the Tuberculosis Health Visitors and the Home Nurses, and the special housing needs of each case are fully investigated.

SECTION D - ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR
AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1957

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water for the Welwyn Rural District is obtained from the following two sources:-

- i) Welwyn Garden City Pumping Station situated in the Mimram Valley and
- ii) A well, situated at School Lane, Welwyn, owned by the Welwyn Rural District Council.

Water from these sources, after chlorination, is distributed through 17.1 miles of water mains, some of which are specifically pumping mains and the others perform the joint function of pumping and supply mains.

There are seven balancing tanks, being:

i)	Greggs Wood	40,000 gallons capacity
ii)	Ayot St. Lawrence	50,000 gallons capacity
iii)	Welwyn Reservoir	90,000 gallons capacity
iv)	Heath Road	18,000 gallons capacity
v)	Potters Heath	100,000 gallons capacity
vi)	Harmer Green	40,000 gallons capacity
vii)	Burnham Green	50,000 gallons capacity

The Heath Road tower was erected and put into commission during 1957 in order to improve the supply to a residential area at The Drive and at the top of Mardley Hill. These areas had previously a supply which was affected by any undue consumption in the lower areas.

The supply has been improved following the erection of the tower and the laying of some 1" pipe to cater for property situated remotely from the water main running up The Drive.

The rearrangement of the district supplies carried out at the end of 1955, when the draw from Welwyn Garden City mains was reduced and the draw from the Council's School Lane Well increased, is now ready for review. The increased demand from the Queensway Estate and the Akers Laboratories at "The Frythe" is causing a strained situation at the School Lane Well. Two suggestions have been made for remedying this situation and the Council is in communication with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in the matter.

The consumption from both sources of supply during the year was accounted for as follows:-

i)	From Welwyn Garden City U.D.C.	82,629,000
	Supplied to Hitchin Rural District Council from this source	<u>11,791,000</u>
		70,838,000
ii)	From School Lane Well	35,989,000
	Received from Hitchin Rural District Council	<u>936,000</u>
	Total consumed in Welwyn Rural District	<u>107,763,000</u>

The increased consumption was due to new properties being occupied and to the very dry year.

The rainfall for 1957 was 20.58" as against an average of 25" over the past five years.

A number of houses in the Lanercost Close area have a poor supply at peak draw periods, and a scheme is at present with the Minister of Housing and Local Government for approval.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Council operates two sewage works, one at Woolmer Green and the other at Welwyn.

These works treat sewage from just over 50% of the population, in the case of the Welwyn sewage works the treated effluent is passed to the River Mimram. Regular samples of effluent are analysed and during the year all results were very satisfactory.

An average of 130,000 gallons of sewage per day pass through the Welwyn Sewage Works.

The Council has under consideration two schemes for providing trunk sewerage for Oaklands, Canonsfield and Mardley Hill and for linking up the new sewer with the existing sewer from Woolmer Green, thereby dispensing with the treatment works at Woolmer Green.

The schemes differ in that one has an outfall into the Middle Lea Trunk sewer and the other provides for enlarging the existing works at Welwyn.

The Council operates a cesspool service for that part of the district not on main drainage. The service operates satisfactorily and during the year 932 services were carried out, 120 more than last year.

From 1st October the Council decided to give three free emptyings per cesspool, per year, instead of two.

RAINFALL.

Readings of Rainfall were taken during the year and a total of 20.58" was recorded.

There was a measurable fall on 132 separate days, the heaviest fall being 1.18" on the 19th July, 1957. The wettest month was July with a fall of 3.21" and the driest month was April with a fall of 0.10".

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTIONS.

A weekly collection of domestic and trade refuse was maintained satisfactorily during the year, using on a full time basis a Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tipper, with a driver and three collector/loaders.

Owing to building development in the district an Austin lorry with driver and one collector/loader is now used for 1½ days a week, and following Bank Holidays.

Disposal is carried out at one central tip in Welwyn. The Council is considering the purchase of some mechanical means of controlling the tip.

INSPECTIONS OF DISTRICT.

The following is a list of miscellaneous Public Health visits made in the district:-

Housing defects	50	Cafes	5
Canteen	6	Offensive smells	3
Food Shops	27	Smoke Nuisance	3
Cesspools and Septic Tanks	21	Infectious diseases	4
Surface Water	1	Water supply	1
Byelaws	240	Rent Act	2
Moveable Dwellings	20	Public buildings	3
Pollution of River	3	Improvement grants	2
Slaughter houses	40		

13 Heifers, 38 Steers, 81 Pigs, 36 Sheep were inspected and the following seizures made:-

Bovine Livers.	Fluke.	7
Sheep Livers.	Fluke.	2
Pig Heads.	T.B.	2
Pigs Lungs.	T.B.	1
Pneumonia.		1
Pigs Liver.	T.B.	1
Bovine Head.	T.B.	1
Pig Hearts - Pericarditis.		2
Bovine carcass - 1 side extensive bruising.		

The following Tinned foods were condemned:-

36 lbs Tinned Meats
46 lbs Tinned Fruits

Two Closing Orders were put on sub-standard houses, one undertaking not to re-let was obtained in respect of one pair of houses, and one house was renovated following a meeting between the Council and an owner.

HOUSING.

Seventy seven dwelling houses were completed during the year. Fifty five by private enterprise and twenty two under contracts let by the Council. The dwellings completed by the Council were one and two bedroom bungalows for occupation by elderly people. This principle releases the larger three bedroom dwellings for younger tenants.

The Council has now completed 344 houses since the war and has erected 662 houses in all, including 46 prefabricated bungalows.

In pursuance of this policy, the Council are considering the erection of bungalows at School Lane, Welwyn, Hawbush Estate, Welwyn and New Road, Woolmer Green.